LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This Listing of the Claims replaces all prior versions thereof. Please amend the Claims as shown below.

1. (Original) A method for interfacing with a home automation system using a router comprising:

receiving a control signal from an instant messenger application, the control signal received by the router via a communications network;

transmitting the control signal to at least one appliance to control the appliance in accordance with the control signal; and

transmitting a reply to the instant messenger application regarding a status of the appliance.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting the control signal to the appliance in accordance with a standardized home automation interface.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

interfacing with the appliance via a home automation system interface unit configured to control a plurality of appliances, the interfacing conducted in accordance with a standardized home automation interface.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 3 wherein the home automation system interface unit is a transceiver configured to control the plurality of appliances.

5. (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

logging onto an instant messenger server; and

functioning as an instant messenger client to receive the control signal.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving an event signal from the appliance; and

transmitting a message to the instant messenger application regarding the event signal from the appliance.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

maintaining a firewall in the router; and

transmitting a message to the instant messenger application through the firewall wall.

8. (Original)   A router for interfacing with a home automation system via a communications network, comprising:

a network interface for communicating with a communications network;

a home automation system interface for communicating with a home automation system; and

a computer system for executing computer readable code, the computer

system having a processor coupled to a memory, the memory having computer

readable code which when executed by the processor causes the router to

implement a method comprising:

receiving control signals from an instant messenger application, the

control signal received by the router via the network interface;

transmitting the control signal to at least one appliance to control the

appliance in accordance with the control signal, the control signal transmitted to

the appliance via the home automation system interface; and

transmitting a reply to the instant messenger application regarding a

status of the appliance.

9. (Original)   The router of claim 8 wherein the method further comprises:

transmitting the control signal to the appliance in accordance with a

standardized home automation interface.

10. (Original) The router of claim 8 wherein the method further comprises:

interfacing with the appliance via a home automation system interface unit

configured to control a plurality of appliances, the interfacing conducted in

accordance with a standardized home automation interface.

11. (Original) The router of claim 10 wherein the home automation system

interface unit is a transceiver configured to control the plurality of appliances.

12. (Original) The router of claim 8 wherein the method further comprises:

logging onto an instant messenger server; and

functioning as an instant messenger client to receive the control signal.

13. (Original) The router of claim 8 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving an event signal from the appliance; and

transmitting a message to the instant messenger application regarding the

event signal from the appliance.

14. (Original) The router of claim 8 wherein the method further comprises:

maintaining a firewall in the router; and

transmitting a message to the instant messenger application through the

firewall wall.

15. (Original) A router for interfacing with a home automation system

comprising:

means for receiving a control signal from an instant messenger

application, the control signal received by the router via a communications

network;

means for transmitting the control signal to at least one appliance to

control the appliance in accordance with the control signal; and

means for transmitting a reply to the instant messenger application

regarding a status of the appliance.

16. (Original) The router of claim 15 wherein the control signal transmitting

means is configured to transmit the control signal to the appliance in accordance

with a standardized home automation interface.

17. (Original) The router of claim 15 further comprising:

means for interfacing with the appliance via a home automation system

interface unit configured to control a plurality of appliances, the interfacing means

compatible with a standardized home automation interface.

18. (Original) The router of claim 17 wherein the home automation system

interface unit is a transceiver configured to control the plurality of appliances.

19. (Original) The router of claim 15 of further comprising:

means for logging onto an instant messenger server; and

means for functioning as an instant messenger client to receive the control

signal.

20. (Original) The router of claim 15 further comprising:

means for receiving an event signal from the appliance; and

means for transmitting a message to the instant messenger application

regarding the event signal from the appliance.

21. (Original) The router of claim 15 further comprising:

means for maintaining a firewall in the router; and

means for transmitting a message to the instant messenger application

through the firewall wall.

22. (Original) The router of claim 15 wherein the communications network

is the Internet.

23. (Original) A computer readable media having computer readable code

which when executed by a processor of a router causes the router to implement

a method for interfacing with a home automation system via a communications

network, comprising:

receiving a control signal from an instant messenger application, the

control signal received by the router via a communications network;

transmitting the control signal to at least one appliance to control the

appliance in accordance with the control signal; and

transmitting a reply to the instant messenger application regarding a

status of the appliance.

24. (Original) The computer readable media of claim 23 further

comprising:

transmitting the control signal to the appliance in accordance with a

standardized home automation interface.

25. (Original) The computer readable media of claim 23 further

comprising:

interfacing with the appliance via a home automation system interface unit

configured to control a plurality of appliances, the interfacing conducted in

accordance with a standardized home automation interface.

26. (Currently Amended)   The computer readable media of claim 25 [[3]]

wherein the home automation system interface unit is a transceiver configured to

control the plurality of appliances.

27. (Original) The computer readable media of claim 23 further

comprising:

logging onto an instant messenger server; and

functioning as an instant messenger client to receive the control signal.

28. (Original) The computer readable media of claim 23 further

comprising:

receiving an event signal from the appliance; and

transmitting a message to the instant messenger application regarding the

event signal from the appliance.

29. (Original) The computer readable media of claim 23 further

comprising:

maintaining a firewall in the router; and

transmitting a message to the instant messenger application through the

firewall wall.